Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08978 01 OF 05 151611Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 AGRE-00 /144 W

-----120785 151655Z /42

R 151537Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8651

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 05 PARIS 08978

USMTN

PARIS PASS OECD

USEEC

PASS TREASURY, FEDERAL RESERVE, COMMERCE, LABOR

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: EALR, EFIN, EGEN, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

REF: PARIS 07289, MARCH 1, 1978

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 08978 01 OF 05 151611Z

1. SUMMARY

THE RESULTS OF THE FIRST ROUND OF THE FRENCH LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS WERE GREETED WITH NEAR EUPHORIA BY FRENCH FINANCIAL MARKETS. ON THE PARIS STOCK EXCHANGE SHARES ROSE BY AN AVERAGE OF NINE PERCENT IN ONE SINGLE DAY, MONDAY, MARCH 13--A PHENOMENON NEVER EQUALLED BEFORE ACCORDING TO A SPOKESMAN CLOSE TO THE BOURSE. THE FRENCH FRANC RECOVERED BY AN AVERAGE OF 3 PERCENT, WHILE THE POPULAR NAPOLEON GOLD COIN DROPPED BY 10 PERCENT AND THE KILO INGOT BY 4-1/2 PERCENT, FRACTIONALLY EVEN BELOW THE LONDON PRICE. OTHERWISE THE ECONOMY CONTINUED ITS LACKLUSTER PERFORMANCE WITH VARIOUS SURVEYS CONFIRMING A GENERALLY FLAT TREND IN CONSUMPTION AND INVESTMENT. THE ECONOMY, LIKE THE REST OF THE COUNTRY, IS WAITING FOR THE FINAL OUTCOME OF THE LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS NEXT SUNDAY, MARCH 19.

2. LAST MINUTE AGREEMENT OF THE LEFT

AFTER SIX MONTHS OF DISAGREEMENT AND BITTER DISPUTES, SOCIALISTS, COMMUNISTS, AND LEFT-WING RADICALS SUDDENLY AGREED ON MARCH 13 TO PRESENT COMMON CANDIDATES AND TO CAMPAIGN TOGETHER.

THEY ALSO PLEDGED TO TAKE A NUMBER OF ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL MEASURES IMMEDIATELY IN CASE OF A VICTORY OF THE LEFT--MAINLY, RAISING THE MINIMUM WAGE TO F 2,400 PER MONTH FOR A 40 HOUR WORK-WEEK (PLUS 37 PERCENT), RAISING FAMILY ALLOWANCES BY 50 PERCENT AND EXTENDING THEM TO THE FIRST CHILD IN A FAMILY, RAISING PENSIONS (PLUS 15 PERCENT) AND UNEMPLOYMENT UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 08978 01 OF 05 151611Z

BENEFITS, CREATE 500,000 NEW JOBS INCLUDING 210,000 IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR. OTHER MEASURES, SUCH AS THE EXTENT OF THE NATIONALIZATION PROGRAM (A MAJOR POINT OF THEIR PREVIOUS DISPUTES) ARE TO BE DISCUSSED AFTER THE ELECTIONS.

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08978 02 OF 05 151613Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05

EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 AGRE-00 /144 W

-----120796 151656Z /40

R 151537Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8652

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 05 PARIS 08978

3. QUARTERLY LABOR MINISTRY SURVEY CONFIRMS STAGNATING ACTIVITY

FROM THE FIRST WEEK OF OCTOBER 1977 TO THE FIRST WEEK OF JANUARY 1978, AVERAGE HOURLY WAGES IN FRENCH INDUSTRY AND TRADE ROSE BY 2.9 PERCENT; THEY WERE 12.1 PERCENT ABOVE THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1977. AT THE SAME TIME THE AVERAGE LENGTH OF THE WORK WEEK DECLINED TO 41.1 HOURS FROM 41.3 HOURS BEGINNING OF UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 08978 02 OF 05 151613Z

OCTOBER AND 41.4 HOURS BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1977. CONSEQUENTLY, WEEKLY EARNINGS ROSE BY 10.2 PERCENT FROM BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1977 TO THE BEGINNING OF JANUARY 1978. (N.B. THE FRENCH CPI RISE BY 9.2 PERCENT DURING THE SAME PERIOD.)

DURING THE SAME QUARTER THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT DECLINED BY 1.1 PERCENT. THIS DECLINE, HOWEVER, IS LARGELY SEASONAL, AS A DROP DURING THE LAST QUARTER OF THE YEAR HAS BEEN REGISTERED EACH YEAR FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS. STILL, THE DECLINE WAS SHARPER THAN IN MOST PREVIOUS YEARS. AS COMPARED WITH JANUARY 1977, THE LEVEL OF EMPLOYMENT DROPPED BY 1.6 PERCENT. IT SHOULD BE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT

THE APPRENTICESHIP AND JOB FORMATION POSITIONS
PROVIDED FOR IN THE GOVERNMENT PROGRAM TO EMPLOY
YOUTH ARE NOT INCLUDED IN THESE EMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

THE QUARTERLY LABOR MINISTRY SURVEY ALSO BRINGS TO LIGHT THE NARROWING OF THE WAGE SPIRAL OVER THE OAST YEARS.

RATE OF INCREASE OF HOURLY WAGES--YEAR OVER YEAR

1974 1975 1976 1977 20.3 14.8 15.1 12.1

4. CHAMBER OF COMMERCE ACTIVITY LEVEL INDEX DECLINES

FRENCH ECONOMIC ACTIVITY CONTINUED DULL THROUGH FEBRUARY. THE FRENCH CHAMBER OF COMMERCE INDICATED THAT ITS WEEKLY INDEX OF ACTIVITY FELL TO 1249 AT THE END OF FEBRUARY (AUGUST 1970 1000) FROM 1285 END OF THE YEAR 1977. UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 08978 02 OF 05 151613Z

5. LONG-TERM CAPITAL INFLOW

HARDLY ANY NEW LONG-TERM EXTERNAL BORROWINGS WERE NOTED IN THE PRESS DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF 40 MILLION DM, 1978--1983, 6 PERCENT NOTES OF GIS (GROUPEMENT DE L'INDUSTRIE SIDERURGIQUE). ON THE OTHER HAND, THE FINANCE MINISTRY INDICATED THAT THEIR STATISTICS SHOW FOREIGN BORROWINGS AT F 1.70 BILLION IN FEBRUARY AND F 1.74 BILLION IN JANUARY. THIS, OF COURSE, MEASURES THE INFLOW DURING THE TWO MONTHS AND NOT NEW BORROWINGS NEGOTIATED DURING THIS PERIOD.

6. GROWTH OF MONEY SUPPLY PICKS UP SLIGHTLY IN DECEMBER

THE MONEY SUPPLY (M2) INCREASED AT A SOMEWHAT HIGHER RATE IN DECEMBER THAN IN PREVIOUS MONTHS. M2 INCREASED BY 1.7 PERCENT DURING THE MONTH (5.2 PERCENT ON AN UNADJUSTED BASIS), RESULTING IN A 3.1 PERCENT INCREASE DURING THE FOURTH QUARTER, COMPARED TO A 4.8 PERCENT INCREASE DURING THE THIRD QUARTER. M1 INCREASED BY 2.4 PERCENT DURING THE MONTH AND 2.3 PERCENT FOR THE LAST QUARTER, DOWN FROM 4.9 PERCENT IN THE THIRD QUARTER. QUASI MONEY INCREASED BY 1.6 PERCENT FOR THE MONTH AND 4.3 PERCENT FOR THE QUARTER, DOWN FROM 4.6 PERCENT IN THE PREVIOUS QUARTER. THE AVERAGE ANNUAL INCREASE OF THE 1977 MONEY SUPPLY WAS 12.2 PERCENT, WELL WITHIN THE 12.5 PERCENT TARGET.

7. NEW SERIES OF SEASONALLY ADJUSTED UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS

INSEE HAS REVISED ITS HISTORICAL SERIES OF OFFICIAL UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS, BASED ON THE NEW SET OF SEASONAL ADJUSTMENT COEFFICIENTS. THE CORRESPONDING UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PARIS 08978 02 OF 05 151613Z

UNEMPLOYMENT RATES ARE SHOWN IN PARENTHESES.

(IN THOUSANDS) 1976: APRIL 929.5 (4.5), MAY 926.2 (4.5) JUNE 928.0 (4.5), JULY 918.5 (4.5), AUGUST 929.8 (4.5), SEPTEMBER 926.2 (4.5), OCTOBER 931.3 (4.5),

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08978 03 OF 05 151640Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 AGRE-00 /144 W

-----121117 151654Z /41

R 151537Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8653

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 03 OF 05 PARIS 08978

NOVEMBER 941.4 (4.6), DECEMBER 952.0 (4.6); 1977: JANUARY 974.3 (4.7), FEBRUARY 998.8 (4.8), MARCH 1017.3 (4.9), APRIL 1037.3 (5.0), MAY 1065.9 (5.2), JUNE 1104.5 (5.4), JULY 1139.6 (5.5), AUGUST 1174.4 (5.7), SEPTEMBER 1132.2 (5.5), OCTOBER 1091.8 (5.3), NOVEMBER 1065.0 (5.2), DECEMBER 1050.9 (5.1); 1978: JANUARY 1023.2 (4.9).

HOWEVER, AS WAS REPORTED IN REFTEL, THE OFFICIAL SERIES HAS NOT BEEN COMPARABLE OVER THE LAST FEW MONTHS DUE TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 08978 03 OF 05 151640Z

CERTAIN MODIFICATIONS IN UNEMPLOYMENT REGISTRATION. THE DATA WHICH INSEE UNOFFICIALLY CONSIDERS TO BE COMPARABLE ARE: OCTOBER 1096.8 (5.3), NOVEMBER 1068.1 (5.2), DECEMBER 1054.0 (5.1), JANUARY 1063.1 (5.1).

8. INSEE REPORTS PUBLISHED DURING THE REPORTING PERIOD:

--LABOR COST

(JANUARY 1973100)

1977 1978 PERCENT CHANGE FROM $\label{eq:from} {\rm JAN\ DEC} \quad {\rm JAN\ DEC\ 77\ JAN\ 77}$

MECHANICAL AND ELECTRICAL INDUS-

TRIES 188.0 212.2 218.1 #2.8 #16.0 TEXTILES 188.9 211.5 214.4 #1.4 #13.5

--BUSINESS FAILUES IN FEBRUARY AFFECTED 1292 ENTER-PRISES, AS COMPARED WITH 1264 IN JANUARY AND ONLY 1046 IN FEBRUARY 1977.

--PRICES OF IMPORTED RAW MATERIALS DECLINED FURTHER:

(1968100)

1977 1978 PERCENT CHANGE FROM FEB. JAN. FEB. FEB.77 JAN.78

TOTAL 369.3 298.8 286.0 -22.6 - 4.3

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 08978 03 OF 05 151640Z

FOOD AND

-AGRICULTURE 605.8 471.8 443.7 -26.8 - 6.0 INDUSTRIAL RAW

-MATERIALS 232.7 199.0 195.0 -16.2 - 2.0

9. TURNOVER AND PRICES ON PARIS GOLD MARKET DROP SHARPLY

THE VOLUME OF TRANSACTIONS, WHICH REACHED OVER F26 MILLION ON MARCH 7, DECLINED TO ABOUT F 20 MILLION ON THE EVE OF THE FIRST RUN-OFF OF THE ELECTIONS. IT DROPPED SHARPLY TO F 11 MILLION ON MARCH 13 AND WAS F 13 MILLION ON MARCH 14. THE PRICE OF THE KILO INGOT DECLINED FOR THE SECOND CONSECUTIVE DAY AND WAS AGAIN CHEAPER THAN IN LONDON (\$184.88 PER OUNCE). MARKET SOURCES EXPLAINED THAT A NUMBER OF OPERATORS MIGHT HAVE OVERBOUGHT AS A HEDGE AGAINST AN EVENTUAL VICTORY OF THE LEFT. IT IS EXPECTED, HOWEVER, THAT PRICES ON THE PARIS MARKET WILL ONLY TEMPORARILY REMAIN LOWER THAN THOSE ON THE LONDON INTERNATIONAL MARKET.

10. FRENCH FOREIGN INVESTMENT CONTINUED TO INCREASE IN 1976

ACCORDING TO MOF DATA JUST RELEASED, FRENCH DIRECT INVESTMENT ABROAD, INCLUDING LENDING ABROAD, INCREASED BY 51 PERCENT IN 1976, AS COMPARED WITH 21 PERCENT IN 1975, 17 PERCENT IN 1974, AND 14 PERCENT IN 1973.

MILLIONS OF FRANCS

DIRECT LONG-TERM TOTAL INVESTMENT LOANS

1975

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 PARIS 08978 03 OF 05 151640Z

GROSS OUTFLOW 5032 2744 7776 LIQUIDATIONS AND

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08978 04 OF 05 151623Z ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 AGRE-00 /144 W

-----120904 151657Z /40

R 151537Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8654

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 04 OF 05 PARIS 08978

REIMBURSEMENTS 890 1003 1893

NET 4142 1741 5883

1976

GROSS OUTFLOW 7182 4572 11756

LIQUIDATIONS AND

REIMBURSEMENTS 2007 2047 4054

NET 5175 2527 7702

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 08978 04 OF 05 151623Z

INVESTMENT BY COUNTRY AND SECTOR OF ACTIVITY WAS AS

FOLLOWS: (FIGURES IN BRACKETS ARE FOR 1975): EEC COUNTRIES 34 PERCENT (29), US 15 PERCENT (18), OTHER OECD COUNTRIES 19 PERCENT (20). ENERGY 39 PERCENT (43), INDUSTRY 26 PERCENT (28), SERVICES 30 PERCENT (26).

ON THE OTHER HAND, GROSS FOREIGN INVESTMENT BY NON-RESIDENTS INCREASED BY ONLY 10 PERCENT IN 1976, WITH NET INVESTMENT ACTUALLY DECLINING.

MILLIONS OF FRANCS

DIRECT LONG-TERM
INVESTMENT LOANS TOTAL

GROSS 1975

GROSS OUTFLOW 7674 1488 9162

LIQUIDATIONS AND

REIMBURSEMENTS 2159 938 3097

NET 5515 550 6065

1976

GROSS OUTFLOW 7442 2590 10032

LIQUIDATIONS &

REIMBURSEMENTS 3709 1600 5309

NET 3733 990 4723

THE BREAKDOWN BY AREA AND SECTOR OF ACTIVITY IS AS FOLLOWS: (1975 FIGURES IN BRACKETS): EEC 52 PERCENT (41), US 15 PERCENT (18), OTHER OECD 27 PERCENT (28), INDUSTRY 42 PERCENT (36), SERVICES 28 PERCENT (26), UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 PARIS 08978 04 OF 05 151623Z

REAL ESTATE 26 PERCENT (33).

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 PARIS 08978 05 OF 05 151553Z ACTION EUR-12 INFO OCT-01 EA-12 IO-14 ISO-00 SP-02 USIA-15 AID-05 EB-08 NSC-05 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-07 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 FRB-01 INR-10 NSAE-00 XMB-04 OPIC-06 LAB-04 SIL-01 L-03 H-02 PA-02 DOE-11 SOE-02 AGRE-00 /144 W

-----120529 151658Z /40

R 151537Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8655

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION GENEVA

AMCONSUL BORDEAUX

AMCONSUL LYON

AMCONSUL MARSEILLE

AMCONSUL NICE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS SECTION 05 OF 05 PARIS 08978

OTHER REPORTS SUBMITTED DURING THE PERIOD

TELEGRAMS

PARIS

8209 PARIS GOLD MARKET

8170 PROPOSED INCREASE IN IMF/IBRD STAFF SALARIES

8005 LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS FOR CALLABLE CAPITAL

IN THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS

7739 "APPARENT" PRODUCTIVITY

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 PARIS 08978 05 OF 05 151553Z

7738 GAO SURVEY: "U.S. COMMERCIAL BANK LENDING
TO LDC'S AND EASTERN EUROPEAN COUNTRIES"
7431 FRENCH ELECTIONS: THE PATRONAT PREPARES
7430 ZAIRE DEBT REPAYMENT
7347 ASSISTANCE TO BUSINESS VISITOR
7207 ECONOMIC IMPACT OF A LEFT VICTORY: A SOCIALIST VIEW

PARIS

AIRGRAMS

A-69 FRENCH RESERVES IN FEBRUARY 1978

A-68 FRENCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS

A-64 FRENCH FOREIGN EXCHANGE HOLDINGS

A-63 VALUE OF TRADE IN MANUFACTURES, CERP	1208
HARTMAN	

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 jan 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: ECONOMIC TRENDS, LEGISLATIVE ELECTIONS, SECURITIES MARKETS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 15 mar 1978 Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: n/a

Disposition Approved on Date: Disposition Case Number: n/a Disposition Comment: Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960 Disposition Event: Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PARIS08978
Document Source: CORE

Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: N/A Errors: N/A

Expiration: Film Number: D780115-0561 Format: TEL From: PARIS

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

ISecure: 1

Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780366/aaaacdla.tel

Line Count: 550 Litigation Code IDs: Litigation Codes:

Litigation History: Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Message ID: 2f4ccec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Office: ACTION EUR

Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 11
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a Previous Classification: n/a Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: 78 PARIS 7289

Retention: 0

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Content Flags:

Review Date: 01 mar 2005 **Review Event:** Review Exemptions: n/a **Review Media Identifier:**

Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

SAS ID: 3324281 Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: FRENCH FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS TAGS: EALR, EFIN, EGEN, FR
To: STATE USMTN

Type: TE

vdkvgwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2f4ccec6-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc

Review Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014

Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014